

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1                    1. A method for monitoring operation of an information distribution  
2 system, comprising:  
3                    receiving a directive to monitor a particular channel at a particular  
4 terminal;  
5                    sending a command indicative of the particular channel and terminal to be  
6 monitored;  
7                    receiving contents for the particular channel from the particular terminal;  
8                    capturing the received content; and  
9                    reporting the captured content.
- 1                    2. The method of claim 1, wherein the reported contents are used to verify  
2 delivery of contents from the information distribution system.
- 1                    3. The method of claim 1, wherein the reported contents are used to verify  
2 operation of a user interface at the particular terminal.
- 1                    4. The method of claim 1, wherein the received contents are captured as  
2 one or more video frames.
- 1                    5. The method of claim 1, wherein the received contents are captured as a  
2 video sequence.
- 1                    6. The method of claim 1, wherein the captured contents are reported as a  
2 bitmap.
- 1                    7. The method of claim 1, wherein the directive is received as part of a  
2 regular monitoring schedule.
- 1                    8. The method of claim 1, wherein the command is sent to a remote  
2 control unit.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular terminal is selected from among a plurality of terminals.

10. A monitoring system operative to monitor operation of an information distribution system, comprising:  
one or more terminals, each terminal operative to receive commands and provide requested contents; and  
a control unit configured to  
receive a directive to monitor a particular channel at a selected one of the one or more terminals,  
send a command to the selected terminal,  
receive contents for the particular channel from the selected terminal, and  
capture and report the received content.

11. The monitoring system of claim 10, further comprising:  
a monitor and control unit operatively coupled to the control unit and configured to provide the directive to monitor the particular channel at the selected terminal.

12. The monitoring system of claim 11, wherein the monitor and control unit is further configured to provide a set of directives to test user interaction at the selected terminal.

13. The monitoring system of claim 11, wherein the monitor and control unit is further configured to provide a set of directives to verify proper delivery of contents on a plurality of channels to a plurality of terminals.

14. The monitoring system of claim 10, wherein the command directs the selected terminal to tune to the particular channel.

15. The monitoring system of claim 10, further comprising:

2 a remote control unit configured to receive the command from the control  
3 system and direct the selected terminal to tune to the particular channel.

1 16. The monitoring system of claim 10 and including a plurality of  
2 terminals of a plurality of terminal models.

1 17. The monitoring system of claim 10, wherein the control system  
2 includes  
3 a media capture unit configured to capture the contents received from the  
4 selected terminal.

1 18. The monitoring system of claim 17, wherein the media capture unit is  
2 configured to capture the contents received from the selected terminal as one or more  
3 video frames.

1 19. The monitoring system of claim 17, wherein the media capture unit is  
2 configured to capture the contents received from the selected terminal as a video  
3 sequence.

1 20. A monitoring system operative to monitor delivery of contents in an  
2 information distribution system, comprising:  
3 a plurality of terminals, each terminal operative to receive commands and  
4 provide requested contents;  
5 a monitor and control unit configured to provide a directive to monitor a  
6 particular channel at a selected terminal; and  
7 a control system configured to  
8 receive the directive from the monitor and control unit,  
9 send a command to the selected terminal,  
10 receive contents for the particular channel from the selected  
11 terminal, and  
12 capture and report the received content.

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